

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott issued the following statement on the November 2011 Jobs Report that showed the private sector added 120,000 jobs and the national unemployment rate fell from 9% to 8.6%:

"Today's jobs report marks the 21st consecutive month of private sector job growth; however, continued layoffs by state and local governments remain a significant drag on our economy. Additionally, the drop in the national unemployment rate is largely due to the fact that many people have become discouraged and have stopped looking for work. On average, there are four unemployed Americans for every one job opening and no job is going unfilled.

"Congress must do more to accelerate job growth. The most immediate and positive thing we can do for the economy this month is extend federal unemployment benefits, which are scheduled to expire at the end of the year. These benefits have been judged by economists as one of the most positive methods to stimulate the economy and, more importantly, they keep millions of American families out of poverty. Millions of Americans, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and have been actively looking for work for months, are relying on Congress to act. As the holiday season approaches, this is the least we can do."

# # #